

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending in the application. Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are rejected. Claims 5 and 9 are objected to. Claims 10-17 are added via the foregoing amendments.

SPECIFICATION:

The Examiner objects to the specification because of the various informalities listed in section 1 of the Office Action. Applicants amend the specification to address the informalities and request withdrawal of the objection.

35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-3, 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Nakamura (U.S. Patent No. 5,984,320).

As noted on page 1 of the present specification, prior chuck assemblies suffer from requiring a stop ring 36, as shown in Figure 1 (of the present invention). The stop ring was required to prevent the rotary nut 33 and rotary sleeve 32 from falling apart.

In an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, grooves 6 and 9a are positioned to engage with the projection 10 of the ring member 8. Therefore, when the ring member 8 is attached to an inner circumferential surface of the rotary sleeve 2, the chuck assembly elements are retained while not requiring the use of the stop ring 36, as in the prior art. This configuration also allows for the ring member 8 to be easily attached to the rotary sleeve 2 in one action, which increases its assembly efficiency.

The applied convex and concave engaging means (19 and 20) of Nakamura are shown in Figure 3. Nakamura fails to disclose all the features recited in amended claim 1, such that the rejection thereof should be withdrawn. In particular, elements 19 and 20 of Nakamura do not provide a slotted portion which guides the convex engaging means toward the concave engaging means, such that upon reaching the concave engaging means, the convex engaging means extends into the concave engaging means so as to be held in place. Instead, elements 19 and 20 of Nakamura are merely aligned in an axial direction such that they are rotatable together.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) be withdrawn in view of amended claim 1. Applicants likewise request that the rejection of dependent claims 2, 3, 6 and 7 be withdrawn at least by virtue of these claims respectively depending upon claim 1.

Claims 1-4 and 6-8

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,848,691 [hereinafter “Yang”]).

Applicants submit that Yang fails to disclose each feature recited in claim 1 because it does not disclose at least the claimed combination of features, including the relationship between the claimed slotted portion and convex engaging means. The drive slots 5-1 and 5-2 of Yang do not work in conjunction with a slotted portion to allow for the applied projections 7-1 and 7-2 to be guided into the drive slots 5-1 and 5-2.

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Yang, therefore, does not disclose each feature recited in claim 1, such that rejection thereof under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) should be withdrawn. Claims 2-4 and 6-8 are similarly not anticipated by Yang at least by virtue of their respective dependencies upon claim 1.

NEW CLAIMS:

Applicants add new claims 10-14 and 17 to further define the invention and submit that they are patentable over the art at least because of their respective dependencies on claim 1. New claims 15 and 16 are added to capture the allowable subject matter of claims 5 and 9, while editing the original recitations to clarify the language. For example, the word “linear” of “linear projection” was not included in claim 15.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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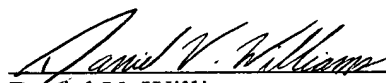
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